



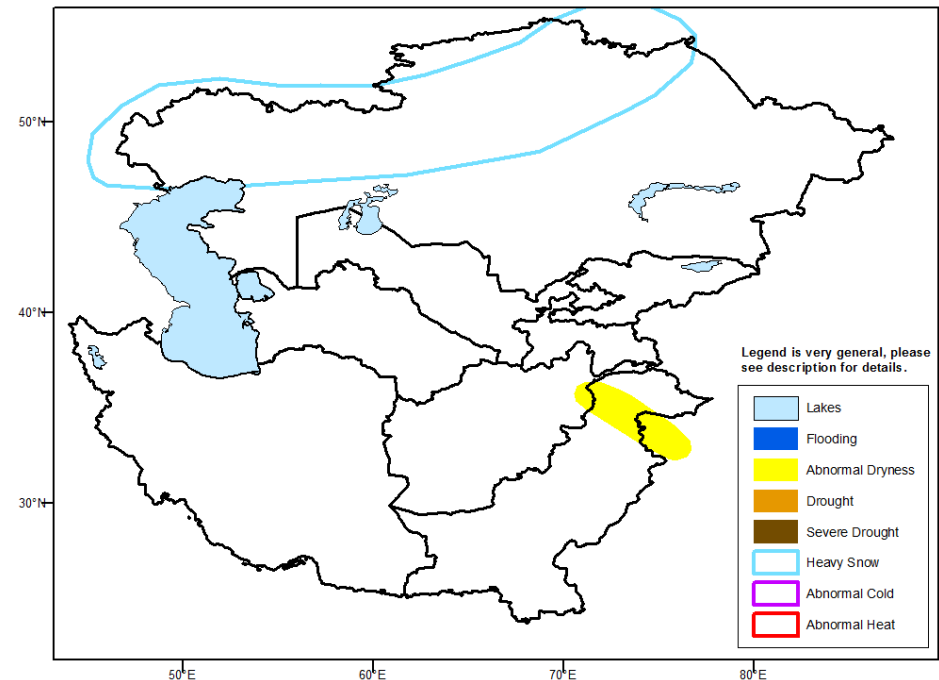
Climate Prediction Center's Central Asia Hazards Outlook December 21 - 27, 2017

Temperatures:

Below-normal temperatures (1 to 8 degrees C) were observed across nearly the entire region from December 10 to 16. Minimum temperatures fell below -30 degrees C over northern Kazakhstan, while hard freezes (minimum temperature below -5 degrees C) extended as far south as western Afghanistan. The GFS model indicates that above-normal temperatures will return to Central Asia and overspread the region. Minimum temperatures are forecast to remain above freezing across the lower elevations of Afghanistan.

Precipitation

Mostly dry weather prevailed across much of the region except for northern and central Pakistan. Parts of central Afghanistan remain snow free which is atypical for mid-December. Abnormal dryness continues in northern Pakistan and parts of northeast Afghanistan where CMORPH precipitation estimates feature precipitation deficits ranging from 25 - 100mm during the past 90 days. A couple of low pressure systems are forecast to bring a swath of heavy snow (more than 15 mm, liquid equivalent) to the northern third of Kazakhstan. Snow (amounts generally less than 25 mm, liquid equivalent) is expected to be limited to the higher elevations of northeast Afghanistan and Tajikistan.



Note: The Hazards outlook map is based on current weather/climate information, short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week), and assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.